



In The Name Of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

مجلس العلماء بشبه جزيرة زامبوانجا

U'lama Council of Zamboanga Peninsula

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE ULAMA COUNCIL OF ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA ON THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

GREETINGS OF SALAM!

March 13, 2020


The officials and members of the Ulama Council of Zamboanga Peninsula (UCZP) held an emergency meeting on March 12, 2020 to deliberate on what precautionary measures should be taken by the Muslim communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. After being apprised by Dra. Uddin of the Zamboanga City Health Office on all vital information relative to COVID-19 and the situation in Zamboanga City and the entire country, UCZP has decided to do its part in a bid to help the government in its effort to contain the COVID outbreak by initially, issuing an advisory for the Muslim populace in the region, especially the religious leaders, imams and administrators of mosques and madaris.

The religion of Islam places great emphasis on purification, hygiene and precaution. In fact, Islam considers cleanliness as half of faith. It also introduced the practice of community quarantine in times of plague. It is a practical religion that combines absolute reliance on divine help and human effort. The UCZP adheres to this moderate approach in every situation that calls for remedial solution. Taking precedents from Islamic history and from the current measures being undertaken by the prominent scholars relative to the religious services inside the two holiest sites of Islam, UCZP believes that the situation now warrants some restrictive adjustments during Friday prayers and other religious activities which involve congregation of people. Hence, all imams, khutaba (preachers) and worshippers are advised to abide by the following precautionary measures:

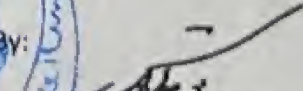
1. The Friday Sermon should, as much as possible, be very brief and concise, not exceeding 20 minutes inclusive of the two (2) units of prayer following the sermon;
2. The Quran recitation during congregational prayer in the Mosque, should also be reasonably short without of course compromising the meaning or message of the Surah or verses being recited; and
3. Hand-shaking, kissing, hugging or other forms of physical contact during greetings and meetings as well as unnecessary crowding should be avoided. Verbal greeting of Salam is sufficient.

We hope that the people remain calm, patient, cooperative, mindful and keen of divine help and guidance in the midst of these trying times. Everyone must do his part to help contain this deadly virus and let us not forget to always pray to Almighty God for our protection and good health. We seek refuge in the Almighty from the COVID-19 and from every harm and illness. We ask Him for the recovery of those infected with this virus and for all the sick people around the world. We ask God for the cure to every disease and to make this great trial an atonement of our sins and a reason for the strengthening of our faith and forbearance. Ameen.

Prepared By:


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